

those jobs, and I would offer to you that most economists will say that job creation is a public and private partnership. That is a very important issue.

I rise today, however, as, again, those who seek the Republican nomination for the Presidency of the United States will come before the American people this evening. They will present a number of issues. This time it will be jobs. I hope they will present themselves in a manner that acknowledges that anyone who has the privilege of serving serves on behalf of the American people. And the American people come from all backgrounds, and I respect that.

In particular, I'm going to ask the Governor of the State of Texas, in his good vices and his beliefs in the equality of all, to reflect upon a decision that is about to be made in the State of Texas, and that is a decision in 2011 to issue a Confederate license plate. Confederate—the same group of individuals who opted to secede from the Union.

I am here as someone who applauds and appreciates the sacrifice that any person in uniform makes. I will not step away from the idea that much blood was shed in the Civil War. But what I am offering to say is that in 2011 it would be a disgrace, it would be outrageous, to uplift the Confederacy on a license plate in the State of Texas. Let me tell you why.

First of all, one of the most heinous tragedies of this great country's history was the holding of slaves. More importantly, millions of slaves destined for the United States and the Americas died in that dark passage before they even got to this soil. The brutality of slavery is without doubt and without question. The State of Texas continued slavery for 2 years longer than any other place in the United States because we did not get notice for 2 years after President Lincoln declared the Emancipation Proclamation. Who wants to ignite and remind you of that kind of devastating history?

And so, as the Texas Motor Vehicle Department makes a decision, I beg of their members to recognize that this is not a uniting action but a dividing action, because the action will be a State-issued plate that would affirm the brutality against African Americans, against slaves, against the ancestors who paid with their life to build this country. There was no debt ever paid for the 400 years of slavery, for the dividing of families, the brutality against children, the hanging and brutality that continued even into Jim Crow.

And as we look to the honoring of the monument of Dr. Martin Luther King this coming week, I beg of my fellow Texans on this board to recognize that this is a national issue. It is a national issue of prominence because to issue a Confederate license plate is to go and do what many States have undone—the removing of the symbols of the Confed-

eracy, the taking away of the "Rebel" name for the University of Texas. Why? Because they believe in moving America forward and focusing on such things as bringing our troops home and honoring them, focusing on such things as creating jobs. And how heinous would it be for the State of Texas, one of the largest States in the Nation, to have its young men who are of African American heritage on the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan to come home and have to look at a Confederate license plate.

□ 1220

This is not free speech. This is not freedom of speech. Because anyone who desires to promote that particular life and legacy, they are so allowed to do so. They may print anything in the privacy of their home, wear anything, put anything on their front yard, their back yard, but not a State-issued plate with Texas dollars embedded inside of that particular symbol. America is greater than that.

I love this country. All of us are patriots because we love this Nation no matter what side of the aisle. And I might remind you, Madam Speaker, that a Republican state senator—I want to thank him—has indicated that we should not have this kind of symbol in Texas.

I beg you, Mr. Perry, tonight to speak to your higher angels and talk about bringing us together. Do not issue a confederate license plate in the State of Texas for God's sake. And God bless America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. ROBY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people's House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

O Lord, we pray that those with whom our Representatives met during

this past long weekend in their home districts be blessed with peace and an assurance that they have been listened to.

We ask Your blessing now on the Members of this House, whose responsibility lies also beyond the local interests of constituents while honoring them. Give each Member the wisdom to represent both local and national interests, a responsibility calling for the wisdom of Solomon. Grant them, if You will, a double portion of such wisdom.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MARKEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 7, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 7, 2011 at 12:10 p.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 2944.

That the Senate passed S. 1639.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

JOB CREATION STARTS WITH LOW TAXES, NOT CLASS WARFARE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, President Obama and his liberal allies in the Senate are at it again. After proposing a new \$447 billion stimulus bill last month, the President has seen the bill

languish in the Democrat-controlled Senate. Why? Because there are some, even in his own party, who know that more government spending and job-killing tax hikes are not going to get our economy moving again.

But the Senate majority leader has come to the rescue with another new class warfare proposal. That's right; he wants a permanent tax increase on small businesses and job creators to pay for a temporary stimulus program. Oh, goody. Long-term, job-destroying tax increases to finance another short-term government spending program.

How about we focus on creating an environment that encourages job creation by eliminating harmful government regulations that stifle hiring and by fixing our broken Tax Code without raising taxes?

URGING CUTS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMS

(Mr. MARKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARKEY. The "Occupy Wall Street" protests have spread from New York to cities across America. As the protests expand, people are asking, Why? Why are thousands of Americans in the streets? Because Americans are fed up.

Ninety-nine percent of the people are 100 percent fed up. They are fed up with a system that puts profit over people, that rewards the rich at the expense of everyone else. Let me give you an example:

The government plans to spend \$700 billion on new nuclear weapons systems over the next 10 years, even as it's proposing to cut research for Alzheimer's, for cancer research, for a diabetes cure, to take care of Medicare and Medicaid patients across our country.

The American people are not afraid that their family is going to get killed by a new nuclear weapon. They're afraid that the killing that comes into their life comes from the terrorist that is the phone call from a doctor in the middle of the night that another member of their family has cancer, has diabetes, has Alzheimer's, has Parkinson's.

That's the priority that we have to establish for our country. That's why 65 of my colleagues are going to introduce this effort to cut \$200 billion out of the nuclear weapons program over the next 10 years.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO LEAD THE WAY ON CREATING JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week, House Education and Workforce Committee Chairman JOHN KLINE of Minnesota in-

troduced the Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act. This act is a direct response to the National Labor Relations Board's recent reckless action to rush union elections. The NLRB is again showing favoritism toward union bosses at the expense of rights of workers and employers.

As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I am grateful to stand up against the powerful unions and their leaders. This legislation ensures employers, small businesses, are able to participate in a fair union election process. It helps workers make an informed choice. Best of all, it safeguards the privacy of workers.

In Right-to-Work States, such as South Carolina, workers are protected, new well-paying jobs are created, and votes of all citizens are respected. This legislation prevents NLRB from limiting such freedoms in the workplace.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S HIGH RANKING

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the University of Miami for being named as the country's 38th best university in U.S. News and World Report's recent rankings. The University of Miami is the highest ranked school in the great State of Florida, and it has moved up nine spots since last year and 29 over the last decade, making it one of the fastest rising institutions. The university's ascent in the rankings is attributed to a marked improvement in key areas such as graduation rates, freshmen retention rates, and average SAT scores of entering freshmen.

I earned a doctorate in education from the University of Miami, so I take special pride in this high ranking. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the university; its president, Donna Shalala; and the incredible faculty, staff, and student body. This is an honor for the "U" and for the entire State of Florida.

Go Canes.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING HIS EXCELLENCE LEE MYUNG-BAK, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Thursday, October 13, 2011, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting His Excellency Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

□ 1410

VETERANS OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ACT OF 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2433) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the employment and training of veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2433

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—RETRAINING VETERANS

Sec. 101. Veterans retraining assistance program.

TITLE II—IMPROVING THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 201. Transition Assistance Program contracting.

Sec. 202. Mandatory participation in Transition Assistance Program.

Sec. 203. Report on Transition Assistance Program.

Sec. 204. Transition Assistance Program outcomes.

Sec. 205. Comptroller General review.

TITLE III—IMPROVING THE TRANSITION OF VETERANS TO CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT

Sec. 301. Reauthorization and improvement of demonstration project on credentialing and licensure of veterans.

Sec. 302. Inclusion of performance measures in annual report on veteran job counseling, training, and placement programs of the Department of Labor.

Sec. 303. Clarification of priority of service for veterans in Department of Labor job training programs.

Sec. 304. Evaluation of individuals receiving training at the National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute.

Sec. 305. Requirements for full-time disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representatives.